Remarks

Claims 1-41 are currently pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38, 40, and 41 have been amended. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on February 2, 2005. During the interview, deficiencies in the Whitehead reference were discussed relative to subject matter of the present application. Namely, it was discussed that Whitehead discloses that a CMS receives a request for a component from an application and then determines whether the component is available and provides the component to the application for it subsequent use by the application. It was discussed that receiving a request for a component from an application, determining whether the component is available, and then returning the component is entirely different than receiving a request from an application to determine whether data is valid based on a reference and then returning an indication of whether the data is valid or not. It was agreed that amendments to clarify that data validation involves comparing data to a reference to then return an indication would be submitted.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-41 have been provisionally rejected for obvious type double-patenting over claims 1-41 of App. 09/916,288 and over claims 1-9, 12-15, 18, 25-38, 40, 41, 46-51, 53-58, and 60-61 of App. 09/916,323. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1-41 of the present application include recitations to data validation services which involve comparing data to a reference to see if the form of the data matches the reference and then returning an indication of whether the data is valid or not based on that comparison. Claims 1-41 of the '288 application include recitations to data manipulation services which are entirely different than data validation, as data validation does not change data from one form to another but instead determines whether the data is valid relative to a reference for what the data should be and returns either an indication of

valid data or invalid data rather than returning changed data. Thus, data validation as recited in the present claims is not obvious relative to the data manipulation of the claims 1-41 of the '288 application.

Additionally, the data validation as recited in claims 1-41 of the present invention are entirely different than the data configuration information of the claims of the '323 application. Configuration information as recited in the claims of the '323 application pertains to data values that are presented to an application when the application requests those values and where those values serve to configure the application to function in a given manner. As discussed above, validation as recited in the present claims refers to comparing data to a reference and returning an indication of valid or invalid, which is entirely different than looking up a value for a variable and returning that value that has been requested as is set forth in the claims of the '323 application. Thus, data validation as recited in the present claims is not obvious relative to configuration data of the claims of the '323 application.

Therefore, the double patenting rejections based on the '288 and '323 applications should be withdrawn.

112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 32, 32, and 38 under 35 USC 112 due to the use of the Oracle trademark/tradename. These claims have been amended to delete references to Oracle. Therefore, these claims now overcome this rejection.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitehead (US Pat. 6,085,030). The Office Action states that Whitehead discloses all of the elements of these claims. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended claim 1 recites a client application server that utilizes data in a particular form and generates a validation request for validation of the data and wherein the request includes the data in an initial form. Claim 1 further recites an application server accessible by a plurality of client application servers via a plurality of application

software protocols, wherein said application server provides a data validation service on the data received from the client application server in response to receiving the validation request from the client application server and wherein the data validation service compares the data in the initial form to a reference for the particular form utilized by the client application to determine whether the initial form matches the particular form and returns an indication of valid or invalid based on whether the initial form matches the particular form. Additionally, claim 1 recites a storage mass coupled to said application server for storing a system of dynamically maintainable validation functions for performing said validation service

Whitehead fails to disclose these elements. Whitehead is concerned with receiving requests for components, determining whether those components are available, and then returning those components to the application where they may subsequently be implemented. The citation noted by the Examiner, col. 8 lines 3-14, points this out. However, this disclosure by Whitehead is unrelated to data validation as recited in claim 1. Nothing in Whitehead discloses that data of a request is validated by determining whether the form of the data of the request matches a reference. Whitehead describes receiving a request for a component, determining whether a requested component is available, and returning a component that is available to an application. This is entirely different than receiving a request for data validation, validating data by comparing the data to a reference to see if the form of the data matches the form specified by the reference, and returning an indication that data is either valid or invalid based on whether its form matched the reference as set forth in claim 1.

Because Whitehead fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over Whitehead for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 2-9 depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

103 Rejections

Claims 8-41 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead in view of Allen (US Pat 6,078,918). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The independent claims 10, 19, 31, 36, 37, 40, and 41 are rejected based on the rejection of claim 1 discussed above. Each of these claims includes recitations similar to those of claim 1 such that it is evident in each of these that data validation involves comparing data to a reference to determine whether the form of the data matches that specified by the reference. Neither Whitehead nor Allen, singly or in combination, discloses these elements involving such data validation. As noted above, the CMS of Whitehead is not performing data validation when it receives a request for a component, determines whether the component is available, and then returns the component to the application when it is available. Therefore, each of these claims is allowable over the cited references for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 11-18, 20-30, 32-35, 38, and 39 depend from allowable base claims and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

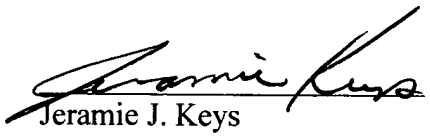
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-41 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 3, 2005



Jeramie J. Keys
Reg. No. 42,724

Withers & Keys, LLC
P.O. Box 71355
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355
(404) 849.2093